Residential Rubber Sidewalk

"*The main purpose was to save the tree.*"
- Brent Mirth, Public Works

Location: Lake St., Huntington Beach, CA

Before

After

Vendor: United Sports Surfacing of America

California tires diverted from landfills: 525

Overview:
In the City of Huntington Beach, residential cement sidewalks around many large, old eucalyptus trees were cracked and heaving. According to Brent Mirth at the Department of Public Works "the sidewalk was really bad around some of these older trees – it had uplifted a lot." The city wanted to find a solution that would help them save the trees.

A crew installed three segments of recycled tire sidewalk as a flexible alternative to cement. The porosity of the rubber sidewalk allows water to penetrate through to the subsoil. Water that percolates through the permeable sidewalk nourishes the tree roots below ground, encourages deep rooting and reduces root heave. The flexibility of the rubber sidewalk prevents cracking if there is any root growth or movement below the surface.